

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920010348US1
MPS Ref. No.: IBMK10348

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated July 27, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on October 27, 2005. Applicant submits this response to place the application in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-12 and 14-20 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 9-12, 15 and 16-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wimble* (U.S. Pat. 5,812,850) in view of *Kim* (U.S. Pat. 6,026,362). Respectfully, Applicants traverse this rejection.

The Examiner bears the initial burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness. See MPEP § 2142. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine the reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Third, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. See MPEP § 2143. The present rejection fails to establish at least the third criteria.

Regarding claims 1 and 9, the Examiner asserts that *Wimble* discloses "a method of debugging executable code configured to access associated data in a data repository." However, the Examiner cites two passages from *Wimble* that are directed to a database used by a debugger to store debugging information regarding a program being debugged. As disclosed in *Wimble*, the executable code (i.e., the program being debugged or "compiled program") does not access associated data from this data repository, the debugger does. For example, the first passage provides:

Debugging information is really a database of information about a compiled program. As shown in FIG. 2, a general system consists of Information Writers 65, or Producers, and Information Readers, or

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Consumers, 67, such as debuggers. As shown in FIG. 3, there is typically a small set of Information Writers, sometimes known as "providers," such as a Compiler 61 and a Linker 63, and a larger set of Information Consumers, such as a Debugger Engine tool 54, a Static Program Analyzer 56, a Design Rule Checker 58, etc. It is not often that the information provided by the providers exactly matches the information needed by the consumers. The information generator described herein provides an information format which presupposes that the information from the provider does not have the content or format needed by the consumers.

Wimble, 6:33-47. Nothing in the cited passage discloses that the executable code accesses associated data in the data repository. Instead, the passage is directed to a database of "debugging information" generated by a debugger and accessed by elements of the debugging system.

The database of debugging information discussed in the first passage is also the focus of the second passage cited by the Examiner. This passage provides:

Once the programmer requests that a program should be executed under control of the Debugger 48, components are created, under direction of the Debugger 48, in the same Database 41 which represent the processes and threads. Properties in these components contain data that change during the execution of the program. This data includes memory, registers, and state, which also allow the Debugger 48 to control the debugged program. ...

Wimble, 8:16-23. Like the first passage, the database of debugging information is used to store information related to a compiled program. The database of debugging information is accessed by components of the debugging system, and not the executable code. Thus, both passages describe a debugger configured to access a data repository that stores "debugger information" related to the program being debugged; not a data repository accessed by executable code. On this basis alone, Applicants submit that the rejection should be withdrawn.

Additionally, *Wimble* fails to disclose "determining whether the monitored executable code has accessed the associated data in the data repository," as recited by Claims 1 and 9. The Examiner asserts that *Wimble* discloses this limitation at 12:47-67. As with the prior passages, however, this passage is also directed to a database of debugger information accessed by components of a debugging system, not to data

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accessed by executable code being debugged. Specifically, the cited passage describes an "adoptPCSourcemap" function call configured "for asking the information reader to adopt a particular format of information from a provider." *Wimble*, 12:48-51. The passage appears to have no relationship to the recited limitation of "determining whether the monitored executable code has accessed the associated data in the data repository."

Furthermore, *Wimble* fails to disclose the limitation of determining whether the monitored executable code has accessed the associated data in the data repository, and if so, determining whether to display the associated data on the basis of whether the associated data is restricted data, as recited by claims 1 and 9.

The present claims recite limitations to a debugger that may be used debug executable code configured to access data from a database in accordance with a set of "access restriction rules" that prevent a user interacting with the debugger from accessing "restricted data" in a data repository. For example, claim 9 recites the limitation of "determining whether the associated data can be displayed on the basis of whether the associated data is restricted data, wherein determining whether the associated data can be displayed comprises referencing predefined access restriction rules defining at least one rule preventing at least a portion of the associated data from being displayed to unauthorized users, whereby selected data from the data repository is concealed from a user debugging the executable code."

The Examiner concedes that *Wimble* fails to disclose this limitation, but asserts that *Kim* does. The material cited from *Kim* describes a user interface feature that allows the user to display, or to not display, certain information about a program being debugged based on nothing more than a particular user's whims. Specifically, the cited passage provides:

In the course of a debugging session, a programmer will want to concentrate his or her efforts in a particular area of the program. The present invention allows the programmer to hide or show necessary program detail by allowing intermediate nodes of the call tree to be "collapsed" (as illustrated in FIG. 6) or "expanded" (as illustrated in FIG. 8). To allow for such a control, each node which has child nodes is provided with an icon button which functions as a switch. When a node is

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collapsed, the child function nodes will not be displayed; when expanded, the child function nodes are displayed. By allowing the programmer to control the level of detail displayed, the debugger is providing the capability to control the visual complexity that the user has to deal with.

Kim, 11:47-61. This cited passage is directed to a "feature that allows a user to unclutter" the display of a debugger. See *Kim*, 15:54-57. In no way does this passage describe the recited limitation of prohibiting the display of the associated data (e.g., by using "masking characters," as recited by claim 1); rather, a user interacting with the debugging system of *Kim* remains free to retrieve and display and data regarding the program being debugged at any time. Quite simply, the features of *Kim* that allow a programmer to keep a desktop "clean and pretty" in no way disclose the limitation of "preventing at least a portion of the associated data from being displayed to unauthorized users," as recited by claims 1 and 9.

Accordingly, for all the reasons set forth above, *Wimble*, in view of *Kim*, fails to teach or suggest the limitations recited by claims 1 and 9. Therefore, applicants submit that claims 1 and 9, along with claims dependent therefrom, are allowable, and Applicants respectfully request that these claims be allowed.

Regarding claim 16, the Examiner asserts that *Wimble*, in view of *Kim*, discloses a computer-readable medium containing a debug program which, when executed, performs an operation of debugging code configured to access associated data in a repository. However, Applicants assert that *Wimble*, in view of *Kim*, fails to disclose at least the recited limitation of "a debug engine configured to selectively pass data to the debugger user interface according to predefined access restriction rules defining at least one rule prohibiting at least a portion of the associated data from being displayed to a user operating the debug program, whereby selected data from the data repository is concealed from the user debugging the executable code."

The Examiner concedes that *Wimble* fails to disclose this limitation, but asserts that *Kim* does. For all the reasons given above, however, Applicants submit that the passages cited from *Kim* fail to teach or suggest a debugger interface configured to prohibit "at least a portion of the associated data from being displayed," as recited by

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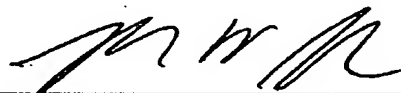
claim 16; rather, these passages from *Kim* disclose a debugger user interface that allows a user to alter what data is displayed at any particular time.

Accordingly, Applicants assert that *Wimble*, in view of *Kim*, fails to teach or suggest the limitations recited by claim 16. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 16, along with claims dependent therefrom, is allowable, and Applicants respectfully request that these claims be allowed.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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